



COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

In reply quote No.

LIVESTOCK STATISTICS

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

31ST MARCH, 1960

South Australian Livestock details as at 31st March, 1960, appearing in this Bulletin have been obtained from the annual collection of Agricultural, Pastoral and Dairying Statistics.

The Bulletin is divided into eleven sections; the first of which summarizes livestock numbers in South Australia at 31st March for each of the last five years; the remaining sections giving more detailed information including particulars of sheep shorn, wool clip and dairy production.

1. SUMMARY OF LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

The numbers of livestock of each kind in South Australia as at 31st March, 1960, are set out below together with similar details for the years 1956 to 1959.

TABLE 1: LIVESTOCK NUMBERS - SOUTH AUSTRALIA

('000)

Classification	As at 31st March -					Percentage Increase (+) or decrease (-) 1960 on 1959
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	
SHEEP						
Under 1 year	2,906.3	3,457.2	3,436.9	3,061.7	2,876.9	(-) 6.0
1 year & over	10,678.6	11,526.6	11,799.6	12,572.6	11,147.8	(-) 11.3
Total	13,584.9	14,983.8	15,236.5	15,634.3	14,024.7	(-) 10.3
CATTLE						
Dairy Cows	195.0	194.5	191.2	187.9	169.5	(-) 9.7
Other Dairy Cattle	69.3	71.0	67.6	60.6	70.1	(+) 15.7
Beef Cattle	301.8	356.1	338.4	327.6	260.1	(-) 20.6
Total	566.1	621.6	597.2	576.1	499.7	(-) 13.3
HORSES	44.5	41.0	35.7	33.3	29.9	(-) 10.2
PIGS	72.9	92.2	108.3	98.4	108.7	(+) 10.5

2. SHEEP AND LAMBS

(i) NUMBERS
Sheep numbers in South Australia decreased from the record total of 15,634,300 at 31st March, 1959 to 14,024,700 at 31st March, 1960; a decline of 1,609,000 (10.3%). This is the first time a decrease in sheep numbers has been recorded since 1946. However, in spite of one of the worst droughts in South Australian history, total numbers were greater than in any year prior to 1957.

Preliminary figures indicate that a record number of 3,906,700 sheep and lambs were slaughtered during the year ended 30th June, 1960, representing an increase of 761,800 over those for the previous year and 628,900 more than the previous record in 1957/58. The increase in slaughterings can be partly attributed to the severe drought conditions which prevailed over South Australian Agricultural areas during 1959. As will be seen from Table 12, sheep numbers declined in all Divisions of the State except "Outside of Counties" where numbers increased by 66,000.

Lambs marked during 1959 were 5,245,200, an increase of 673,500 over 1958 and constituting a record.

Reported losses of sheep and lambs from drought and all other causes for the year ended 31st March, 1960, were 891,700; being an increase of 176,500 over those for the previous year.

Although total sheep numbers decreased by 1,609,000, and the number of Merino, Corriedale and Polwarth decreased by 2,047,000, the number of Merino Comeback and Crossbred sheep increased by 458,400.

As is shown in Table 11 net exports of sheep from South Australia increased from 728,000 in 1958/59 to a total of 1,485,000 in 1959/60.

TABLE 2: SHEEP NUMBERS - SOUTH AUSTRALIA
('000)

Classification	At 31st March -				
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Rams	169.8	184.3	188.7	197.6	187.5
Breeding Ewes	6,324.5	6,976.2	6,578.7	7,284.3	6,489.1
Other Ewes	750.6	719.6	1,045.0	826.2	882.8
Wethers	3,433.7	3,646.5	3,987.2	4,264.5	3,588.4
Lambs	2,906.3	3,457.2	3,436.9	3,061.7	2,876.9
Total	13,584.9	14,983.8	15,236.5	15,634.3	14,024.7

Breed	1959	1960	Breed	1959	1960
Merino	13,111.8) 11,995.6	Suffolk	14.9	14.2
Corriedale	880.4		Southdown	10.3	5.3
Polwarth	50.4		Other & unspecified		
Dorset Horn	40.7	38.3	pure breeds	7.9	8.0
Romney Marsh	32.2	18.7	Merino Comeback	312.6) 1,920.2
Border Leicester	23.9	24.4	Crossbred	1,149.2	

(ii) LAMBING Ewes mated during 1959 were 6,746,400 from which 5,245,200 lambs were marked. These numbers exceed the previous records established in 1957 by 178,400 and 189,100 respectively.

The 1959 lambing percentage was 77.75 compared with 76.07 in 1958.

Lambing details for the years 1955 to 1959 are shown below in Table 3.

TABLE 3: LAMBING - SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Ewes Mated	'000	5,654.5	6,142.4	6,568.0	6,009.6	6,746.4
Lambs Marked	'000	4,439.7	4,909.9	5,056.1	4,571.7	5,245.2
Lambing Percentage	%	78.51	79.93	76.98	76.07	77.75

Farmers indicated that they intended to mate a total of 6,184,168 ewes in 1960 - 4,173,512 to merino rams, 448,263 to corriedale and polwarth, 1,050,848 to shortwool and 511,545 to other longwool rams.

(iii) WOOL PRODUCTION The estimated wool production for 1959/60 is 197,677,000 lb. which is 10,835,000 lb. above that for 1958/59 and 8,869,000 lb. above the previous record established in 1956/57. The value of wool production for 1959/60 is estimated at £43,599,000. This is an increase of £9,812,000 over 1958/59 but represents only approximately 65% of the value recorded in 1950/51, the season of boom prices.

The average price of greasy wool at Adelaide sales improved from 45.62d. per lb. in 1958/59 to 53.82d. per lb. in 1959/60.

The following table shows details of sheep shorn and wool produced for the last three years compared with 1950/51.

TABLE 4: SHEEP SHORN AND WOOL PRODUCED - SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1950-51	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60
Sheep and lambs shorn	'000	10,736	17,085	16,521	17,110
Total Clip, Crutchings, etc.	'000 lb.	114,309	168,194	170,645	180,236
Average per fleece	lb.	10.65	9.84	10.33	10.54
Total Wool Production (a)	'000 lb.	125,384	185,843	186,842	197,677(b)
Value of Production	£000	66,247	42,354	33,787	43,599(b)
Average price (greasy), Adelaide sales	d.	129.16	56.11	45.62	53.82

(a) Includes fellmongered wool, wool exported on skins and dead wool.

(b) Preliminary figures

3. CATTLE

(i) NUMBERS Numbers of all cattle in South Australia at 31st March, 1960, were 499,700; being a decrease of 76,400 (13.3 per cent) from those of the previous year, and a decrease of 121,900 (19.6 per cent) from the record numbers at 31st March, 1957. Of the total decrease of 76,400 recorded between 31st March, 1959 and 31st March, 1960, 67,600 were beef cattle.

Preliminary slaughtering figures of cattle and calves for the year ended 30th June, 1960, are 238,800, being 48,500 lower than for the previous year.

As is shown in Table 11 there are normally net imports of cattle into South Australia but during 1959/60 net exports totalled 33,000.

Classification of cattle numbers in South Australia as at 31st March, 1960, and the four preceding years are shown below in Table 5.

TABLE 5: CATTLE NUMBERS - SOUTH AUSTRALIA

('000)

Classification	At 31st March -				
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
DAIRY CATTLE					
Cows - In Milk	102.5	104.0	98.6	100.1	100.5
Dry	63.3	62.6	65.4	58.2	52.7
Springing Heifers	29.2	27.9	27.2	29.5	16.3
Total	195.0	194.5	191.2	187.8	169.5
Other Heifers	18.1	16.9	18.5	16.1	20.5
Bulls	8.8	8.8	8.6	8.0	7.1
Calves	42.4	45.3	40.5	36.5	42.5
Total	264.3	265.5	258.8	248.4	239.6
BEEF CATTLE					
Cows and Heifers	144.4	171.9	169.6	156.1	134.5
Bulls	5.8	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.3
Calves	73.1	100.1	86.6	73.5	63.2
Other	78.5	77.4	75.4	91.4	56.1
Total	301.8	356.1	338.4	327.7	260.1
TOTAL CATTLE	566.1	621.6	597.2	576.1	499.7

- (ii) DAIRY PRODUCTION With the exception of bacon and ham, preliminary dairy production figures for 1959/60 show decreases compared with 1958/59. The estimated butter production for 1959/60 of 13,874,000 lb. is 2,229,500 lb. less than for 1958/59 and is the lowest recorded since 1930/31.

A comparison of dairy production for the years 1955/56 to 1959/60 is shown in the following table:-

TABLE 6: DAIRY PRODUCTION - SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Production	Unit	Years ended 30th June -				
		1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Butter	'000 lb.	19,541.3	19,260.3	16,060.7	16,103.5	13,874.0
Cheese	'000 lb.	28,297.4	26,786.9	23,509.8	25,087.6	24,380.0
Bacon and Ham	'000 lb.	7,676.5	7,294.8	6,996.6	6,874.9	7,014.0
Total Milk Production	'000 gal.	90,350.0	89,900.0	80,600.0	82,070.0	79,210.0

(a) Preliminary figures

4. PIGS

Pig numbers in South Australia rose from 98,400 at 31st March, 1959, to 108,700 at 31st March, 1960, a rise of 10.5 per cent. This figure is approximately the same as that for 1958 and is above the general level of recent years. At 31st March, 1953, the figure was 58,657 whilst the maximum recorded was 190,068 in 1940.

A classification of pig numbers in South Australia as at 31st March, 1960, and each of the four preceding years is shown below in Table 7.

TABLE 7: NUMBER OF PIGS - SOUTH AUSTRALIA

('000)

Classification	As at 31st March -				
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Boars	1.9	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.7
Breeding Sows	10.8	14.8	16.0	14.4	17.2
All Other	60.2	75.0	89.7	81.6	88.8
Total	72.9	92.2	108.3	98.4	108.7

5. HORSES

Horse numbers have been declining for many years and at 31st March, 1960, totalled 29,900, compared with 33,300 at 31st March, 1959. The decline has been most marked in the case of draught horses, which when first recorded separately in 1943, numbered 112,811 and comprised 68.4 per cent of total horses. At 31st March, 1960, draught horses numbered 3,700 representing approximately 12 per cent of the total.

A classification of horse numbers as at 31st March, 1960, with similar details for the years 1956 to 1959 is shown below in Table 8.

TABLE 8: NUMBER OF HORSES - SOUTH AUSTRALIA

('000)

Classification	As at 31st March -				
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Foals	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.8	2.0
Draught Horses	10.8	8.8	6.6	5.3	3.7
Other Horses	31.5	30.1	27.1	26.2	24.2
Total	44.5	41.0	35.7	33.3	29.9

6. POULTRY

Numbers of poultry at 31st March, 1960, were as follows:- Hens and pullets 1,508,200; Other fowls and chickens 222,500; Ducks 52,700; Turkeys 51,308; Geese 21,900. Table poultry sold during the year ended 31st March, 1960, totalled 364,144.

The above figures do not include numbers held or sold by persons considered outside the scope of the Agricultural and Pastoral collection, e.g. keepers of poultry in backyards etc.

This is the first time that particulars of this nature have been collected since the year 1945/46.

7. LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERINGS

Livestock slaughtering details for the years ended 30th June, 1956, to 30th June, 1960, are shown below:

TABLE 9: LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERINGS - SOUTH AUSTRALIA

('000)

Classification	Years ended 30th June -				
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960(a)
Sheep	1,254.2	1,254.2	1,894.1	1,759.8	2,241.8
Lambs	1,103.4	1,074.9	1,383.7	1,385.1	1,664.9
Cattle & Calves	227.4	252.0	282.5	287.3	238.8
Pigs	132.2	123.7	175.3	179.3	171.3

(a) Preliminary figures

8. LIVESTOCK MORTALITY

The reported losses of livestock from drought and all other causes in South Australia for the years ended 31st March, 1956 to 31st March, 1960 are as follows:

TABLE 10: - LIVESTOCK MORTALITY - SOUTH AUSTRALIA

('000)

Classification	Years ended 31st March -				
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Sheep	447.0	475.0	584.8	596.2	689.5
Lambs	116.0	129.2	148.8	119.0	202.2
Cattle	18.0	19.7	22.1	29.5	25.3
Horses	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.9
Pigs	5.5	6.5	8.3	8.6	8.0

9. SHEEP & CATTLE EXPORTED AND IMPORTED

Exports from, and imports into, South Australia of sheep and cattle for the years 1955/56 to 1959/60 are shown below in Table 11.

TABLE 11: SHEEP AND CATTLE: EXPORTS AND IMPORTS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

('000)

	Years ended 31st March -				
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
SHEEP AND LAMBS					
Exports	547	717	926	974	1,590
Imports	120	195	183	246	105
Net Exports	427	522	743	728	1,485
CATTLE					
Imports	79	78	57	99	61
Exports	32	46	48	51	94
Net Imports	47	32	9	48	-33

10. DISTRIBUTION OF LIVESTOCK

The following table shows livestock numbers in South Australia as at 31st March, 1959 and 1960 according to Statistical Division.

TABLE 12: LIVESTOCK - SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STATISTICAL DIVISIONS

('000)

Statistical Division	SHEEP		CATTLE		HORSES		PIGS	
	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960
Central	3,392.4	2,968.7	164.1	152.7	8.6	7.3	41.0	44.9
Lower North	2,079.4	1,677.6	33.3	26.5	3.2	2.8	21.6	23.6
Upper North	1,189.6	1,081.1	23.3	13.5	2.7	2.3	3.4	3.4
South Eastern	3,930.1	3,591.4	168.4	138.9	5.0	4.7	6.0	6.8
Western	2,460.9	2,167.9	15.4	14.2	3.0	2.4	14.3	13.8
Murray Mallee	1,381.3	1,271.4	28.1	25.7	1.9	1.5	12.0	16.1
Total Counties	14,433.7	12,758.1	432.6	371.5	24.4	21.0	98.3	108.6
Outside of Counties	1,200.6	1,266.6	143.5	128.2	8.9	8.9	0.1	0.1
Total State	15,634.3	14,024.7	576.1	499.7	33.3	29.9	98.4	108.7

11. GOYDER'S LINE

The table below shows the number of sheep, cattle and horses within and beyond Goyder's Line in 1927 (just prior to the 1927-29 drought), 1952 and 1960. Largely due to the increase in top-dressed pastures, there has been a general upward trend in the proportion of sheep and cattle located within Goyder's Line.

The number of horses throughout South Australia has been falling steadily since 1936, but the decline has been more rapid within Goyder's Line (only 57% of horses now being within this line compared with 72% in 1936).

TABLE 13: LIVESTOCK WITHIN AND BEYOND GOYDER'S LINE

YEARS 1927, 1952 & 1960.

Live-stock	Within Goyder's Line			Beyond Goyder's Line			Percentage within		
	1927	1952	1960	1927	1952	1960	1927	1952	1960
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
Sheep	4,515.3	8,367.4	10,461.9	3,027.1	3,102.7	3,562.8	59.87	72.95	74.60
Cattle	160.5	288.3	346.2	155.8	149.2	153.5	50.75	65.90	69.29
Horses	159.0	44.5	17.0	65.0	18.7	12.9	70.99	70.39	56.85

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